Amendments to the Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Canceled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Applicant reserves the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (previously presented) A method for remotely monitoring a software application in a packet-switching network comprising:

registering the software application by a monitoring application as a first communication partner in a list of communication partners accessible in the network, the software application residing on a first computing machine <u>an a server side of the network</u>;

registering a presence application in the list as a second communication partner which monitors the first communication partner, the presence application residing on a second computing machine<u>, the second computing machine an end user device</u>;

transmitting information identifying the software application to be monitored to the first computing machine, the information including a name of the software application;

remotely monitoring the software application by the registered presence application; and

transmitting a state of the software application to the presence application as a message transmitted from the first communication partner,

wherein the monitoring is carried out on the basis of the message.

2.   (canceled)

3.   (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an instant messaging system is used for the registration.

4.   (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmission of the state is secured by a handshake process.

5.   (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the registration of the software application and the transmission of the state are carried out using an SIP infrastructure and the SIMPLE extension to the SIP protocol.

6.   (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the software application is monitorable by a plurality of presence applications, and a plurality of software applications are monitorable by the presence application.

7.   (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the monitoring application which is associated with the software application to be monitored is automatically registered in the list.

8.–22. (canceled).

23.   (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the monitoring the software application comprises:

entering, by a—the end user of the second communication partner, the information identifying the software application prior to the transmitting.

24.   (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the information is entered via a text editor of the presence application.

25.-31. (canceled)

32.   (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the second computing machine receives the software application identifying information, and

wherein the software application is located in response to receiving the information.

33. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the registration of the software application is in response to locating the software application.

34. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the software application identifying information includes an IP address of a computing machine in which the software application is installed.

35. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the software application identifying information includes a host name of a computing machine in which the software application is installed.

36. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the state of the software application is displayed by the second computing machine as part of a buddy list.

37. (currently amended) A method for remotely monitoring a software application in a packet-switching network comprising:

registering the software application by a monitoring application as a first communication partner in a list of communication partners accessible in the network, the software application residing on a first computing machine of a server side of the network;

registering a presence application in the list as a second communication partner which monitors the first communication partner, the presence application residing on a second computing machine of an end user;

transmitting information identifying the software application to be monitored to the first computing machine, the information including a name of the software application;

remotely monitoring the software application by the registered presence application;

transmitting a state of the software application to the presence application as a message transmitted from the first communication partner; and

transmitting a control instruction from the presence application to the monitoring application, the control instruction for controlling the software application,

wherein the monitoring is carried out on the basis of the message.

38.   (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 37,

wherein the control instruction is transmitted to the monitoring application as an instant message.

39.   (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the monitoring application receives the instant message and converts the instant message to a control command for the software application.

40.   (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the state of the software application is displayed by the second computing machine as part of a buddy list.